WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A document editing method, comprising:

displaying on a display unit a structured document having a document structure composed of a plurality of elements;

editing the displayed structured document based on a partial document defined as an operating unit in advance composed of at least one of the elements which is coincident with or is included in the displayed structured document;

creating parts data includes at least partial document and position information on the document structure of the partial document based on information contained in the partial document, the information representing that the partial document is the operating unit, and storing the structured document in a storage unit as a set of the parts data; and

editing the structured document by updating the parts data corresponding to the partial document which is not targeted for operation according to the contents of operation relevant to the partial document selected as an operating target.

2. A document editing method according to claim 1, wherein the partial document includes, as additional information of the partial document:

a type of the partial document;

at least one conversion rule for converting a data

format of the partial document in another data format;

link information for a partial document in another structured document displayed on the display unit as the partial document; and

5   at least one of a type and an insertion position of another partial document which can be inserted into the partial document, and

the additional information is included in the parts data.

10   3. A document editing method according to claim 1, further comprising changing, when a position on the document structure of the partial document targeted for operation is moved, position information contained in parts data corresponding to the partial

15   document in association with a position of a move destination.

4. A document editing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

changing, when a first structured document and a

20   second structured document, each of which is the structured document, are displayed on the display unit, and a first partial document being the partial document included in the first structured document is inserted into a specified position of the second structured

25   document, position information contained in first parts data corresponding to the parts data representing the first partial document in association with an insertion

position in the second structured document; and

storing second parts data obtained as a result of the change in the storage unit as parts data on the second structured document.

5. A document editing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

creating, when a first structured document and a second structured document, each of which is the structured document, are displayed on the display unit, and a first parts document which is the partial document included in the first structured document is inserted into a specified position of the second structured document, new parts data, the new parts data including link information for associating a specified position in the second structured document with a parts document corresponding to the first partial document; and

storing the created data in the storage unit as parts data on the second structured document.

6. A document editing method according to claim 4, further comprising determining, when a first structured document and a second structured document, each of which is the structured document, are displayed on the display unit, and a first parts document corresponding to the partial document included in the first structured document is inserted into a second parts document being the partial document included in

the second structured document, whether or not the first partial document can be inserted into the second partial document based on a type of the first partial document contained in the first parts data which is the

5   parts data corresponding to the first partial document and a type of another partial document which can be inserted into the second partial document contained in the second parts data which is the parts data corresponding to the second partial document;

10   changing, when the partial document can be inserted, position information contained in the first parts data in association with an insertion position in the second structured document;

storing third parts data obtained as a result of

15   the change in the storage unit as parts data on the second structured document; and

converting, when the partial document cannot be inserted, a data format of the first partial document contained in the first parts data into a data format

20   which can be inserted into the second partial document, and then, position information contained in the first parts data is changed to be associated with an insertion position in the second structured document; and

25   storing new parts data obtained as a result of the change in the storage unit as parts data of the second structured document.

7. A document editing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

when the partial document targeted for operation displayed on the display unit is inserted into another

5   partial document displayed on the display unit,

changing, when a data format of the partial document targeted for operation is a data format which can be inserted into the another partial document, position information contained in parts data

10   corresponding to the partial document targeted for operation in association with an insertion position in the another partial document;

storing new parts data obtained as a result of the change in the storage unit as parts data of the

15   another partial document;

converting, when a data format of the partial document targeted for operation is not a data format which can be inserted into the another partial document, the data format of the partial document

20   targeted for operation into the data format which can be inserted into the another partial document, and then,

changing position information contained in parts data corresponding to the another partial document in

25   association with an insertion position in the another partial document, and

storing new parts data obtained as a result of

the change in the storage unit as parts data of the another partial document; and further,

storing, when the partial document targeted for operation and the another partial document are included in one identical partial document, the new parts data in the storage unit and

deleting parts data corresponding to the partial document targeted for operation from the storage unit.

8. A document editing method according to claim 2, wherein the parts data corresponding to the partial document targeted for operation includes a plurality of the conversion rules, and further comprising:

changing a display format of the partial document targeted for operation by using one of the conversion rules.

9. A document editing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

deleting, when the partial document targeted for operation is deleted, parts data corresponding to the partial document targeted for operation and parts data corresponding to the partial document contained in the partial document targeted for operation from the storage unit.

10. A document editing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

updating, when the partial document targeted for

operation is edited, the partial document contained in parts data corresponding to the partial document.

11. A document editing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

creating, when a new partial document is inserted to be added to the structured document displayed on the display unit, the parts data, which includes at least the new partial document and position information corresponding to an insertion position on the document structure of the new partial document; and

storing the created parts data in the storage unit.

12. A document editing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

extracting a partial document in a range specified by a user from among the partial documents displayed on the display unit;

creating the parts data corresponding to the extracted partial document is created; and

storing the created parts data in the storage unit.

13. A document editing apparatus for displaying on a display unit a structured document having a document structure composed of a plurality of elements and editing the structured document based on a partial document defined in advance as an operating unit composed of at least one of the elements, which is

coincident with or is contained in the displayed structured document, the apparatus comprising:

a unit configured to create parts data by the partial document which includes at least the partial document and position information on the document structure of the partial document based on information contained in the partial document, the information representing that at least the partial document is the operating unit;

a storage unit configured to store the structured document as a set of the parts data; and

a unit configured to edit the structured document by updating the parts data corresponding to the partial document targeted for operation according to the contents of operation for the partial document selected as an operating target.

14. A server apparatus, comprising:

a unit configured to display on a display unit a structured document having a document structure composed of a plurality of elements; and

a unit configured to distribute the structured document to a client device which edits the displayed structured document based on a partial document defined in advance as an operating unit composed of at least one of the elements, the partial document being coincident with or being contained in the displayed structured documents,

the structured document to be distributed to the client device including information representing a partial document as the operating unit which is coincident with or is contained in at least the

5   structured documents.

15. A server apparatus, comprising:

a unit configured to display on display means a structured document having a document structure composed of a plurality of elements; and

10   a unit configured to distribute the structured document to a client unit which edits the displayed structured document in a partial document defined in advance as an operating unit composed of at least one of the elements,

15   the structured document to be distributed to the client device including, as additional information on the partial document, together with information representing a partial document as the operating unit which is coincident with or is contained in the

20   structured document:

at least one conversion rule for converting a data format of the partial document into another data forma relevant to each partial document;

link information for a partial document in another

25   structured document displayed on the display unit as the partial document; and

at least one of a type and an insertion position

of another partial document which can be inserted into the partial document.

16. A server apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

a unit configured to insert at least information representing a partial document as the operating unit when information representing a partial document as the operating unit which is coincident with or is contained in at least the structured document is not included in the structured document to be distributed to the client terminal.

17. A server apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

a unit configured to insert at least information representing a partial document as the operating unit when information representing a partial document as the operating unit which is coincident with or is contained in at least the structured document is not included in the structured document to be distributed to the client terminal.

18. A server apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

at least a unit configured to insert at least information representing a partial document as the operating unit and at least one conversion rule for converting a data format of the partial document into another data format, when information representing a

partial document as the operating unit which is coincident with or is included in at least the structured document is not included in the structured document to be distributed to the client terminal.

5   19. A server apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

at least a unit configured to insert at least information representing a partial document as the operating unit and at least one conversion rule for 10   converting a data format of the partial document into another data format, when information representing a partial document as the operating unit which is coincident with or is included in at least the structured document is not included in the structured 15   document to be distributed to the client terminal.

20. A program for displaying on a display unit a structured document having a document structure composed of a plurality of elements and for editing the displayed structured document based on a partial 20   document defined in advance an operating unit composed of at least one of the elements, the partial document being coincident with or included in the displayed structured document, the program causing a computer to execute:

25   a step of creating parts data by the partial document containing at least the partial document and position information on the document structure of the

partial document based on information contained in the partial document, the information representing that at least the partial document is the operating unit;

a step of storing the structured document in a storage unit as a set of the parts data; and

a step of editing said structured document by updating the parts data corresponding to the partial document targeted for operation according to the contents of operation for the partial document selected as an operating target.

21. An electronic tag creating method, comprising:

executing a first program on a computer having at least a display unit, thereby displaying first data on the display unit;

specifying a desktop displayed on the display unit as a copy or move destination of second data which is data contained in a specified range, of the first data;

displaying a window which is an electronic tag at a specified position as the copy or move destination on the specified desktop to display the second data in the window; and

displaying, when an instruction operation of the copy or move destination onto the desktop is monitored, and the instruction operation is sensed, in the window the second data stored in a storage region in the computer.

22. An electronic tag creating method according to

claim 21, further comprising:

executing a second program which is different from the first program on the computer, thereby monitoring a moving operation for moving a display position of the

5 window, in order to insert the second data displayed in the window displayed on the display unit as the electronic tag in third data displayed on the display unit; and

storing, when the moving operation is sensed, the

10 second data displayed in the window in a storage region in the computer.

23. An electronic tag creation method according to claim 22, wherein the method causes the computer for executing the second program to read the second data

15 stored in the storage region.

24. An electronic tag apparatus, comprising:

a sensor unit configured to execute a first program on a computer having at least a display unit, thereby sensing a desktop displayed on the display unit

20 has been specified as a copy or move destination by copying or moving operation for second data which is data in a specified range, of first data displayed on the display unit;

a unit configured to, when the desktop has been

25 specified as the copy or move destination, display a window as an electronic tag at a specified position as the copy or move destination on the desktop; and

a unit configured to display in the window the second data stored in a storage region in the computer.

25. An electronic tag apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising:

a unit configured to execute a second program which is different from the first program on the computer, thereby sensing a moving operation for moving a display position of the window, in order to insert the second data displayed in the window displayed on the display unit into third data displayed on the display unit; and

a unit configured to, when the moving operation has been sensed, store the second data displayed in the window in the storage region.

26. An electronic tag program causing a computer having at least a display unit to execute:

a step of executing a first program on the computer, thereby sensing that a desktop displayed on the display unit has been specified as a copy or move destination by a copying or moving operation for second data which is data in a specified range, of first data displayed on the display unit;

a step of, when the desktop has been specified as the copy or move destination, displaying a window which is an electronic tag at a specified position as the copy or move destination on the desktop; and

a step of displaying in the window the second data

stored in a storage region in the computer.

27. An electronic tag program according to claim 26, causing the computer to further execute:

a step of executing a second program which is different from the first program on the computer, thereby sensing a moving operation for moving a display position of the window, in order to insert the second data displayed in the window displayed on the display unit into third data displayed on the display unit; and

a step of, when the moving operation has been sensed, storing in the storage region the second data displayed in the window.